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WASHINGTON

Retired Adm. Bobby Ray Inman, one of the nation's top intelligence experts, said Monday he has resigned his post as consultant to the House Intelligence Committee because the panel is politically biased.

Inman, who retired as deputy director of both the CIA and the Defense Intelligence Agency in April, said in an interview he quit because he was not consulted before the committee issued a paper on U.S. intelligence activities in Central America.

"They didn't ask my views," he said. "I found the report seriously flawed."

Inman, director of the super-secret National Security Agency during his term with the CIA, has been serving as a consultant to the Democrat-dominated House oversight panel.

Inman, who left the CIA last April, said congressional oversight of intelligence "has to be bipartisan" to merit credibility, but the subcommittee report, which focused on El Salvador and Honduras, was "put out on party lines. It shouldn't be a party issue."

Inman said he announced his resignation during a speech Saturday night to the eighth annual convention of the Association of Former Intelligence Officers at a hotel in Springfield, Va.

He said he also wrote a letter to Rep. Edward Boland, D-Mass., chairman of the House Intelligence Committee.

A committee spokesman said, however, the panel "has received no communication from the admiral" on his resignation.

The spokesman said the committee never discussed consulting him on the report issued Sept. 22, to which he objected because it involved areas for which he had been responsible at the CIA, adding: "It would be unusual to ask him to consult on matters under his own stewardship at the CIA."

During his speech, Inman said "political tinkering" with the House intelligence oversight committee was the reason for his resignation.

To avoid leaks, he said, "None of the staff should have any personal relations with the media."

"If this country doesn't establish a bipartisan approach to intelligence, we are not going to face the problems of the next 50 years," he said.

Inman had kinder words for the Senate Intelligence committee, which has eight Republicans and seven Democrats and is chaired by Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz.

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